TUTORIAL: HOW TO DEPOP HEAD(S) OF IBM/HITACHI HDD WITH HD DOCTOR FOR IBM/HITACHI

Detail procedures:

Get everything connected well accoriding to the user manual

Launch HD Doctor for IBM/Hitachi program

Go to “hdd load management” tab, click “from the hdd”. A few seconds later, we can see the hdd parameters including its number of heads. (See Figure 1)

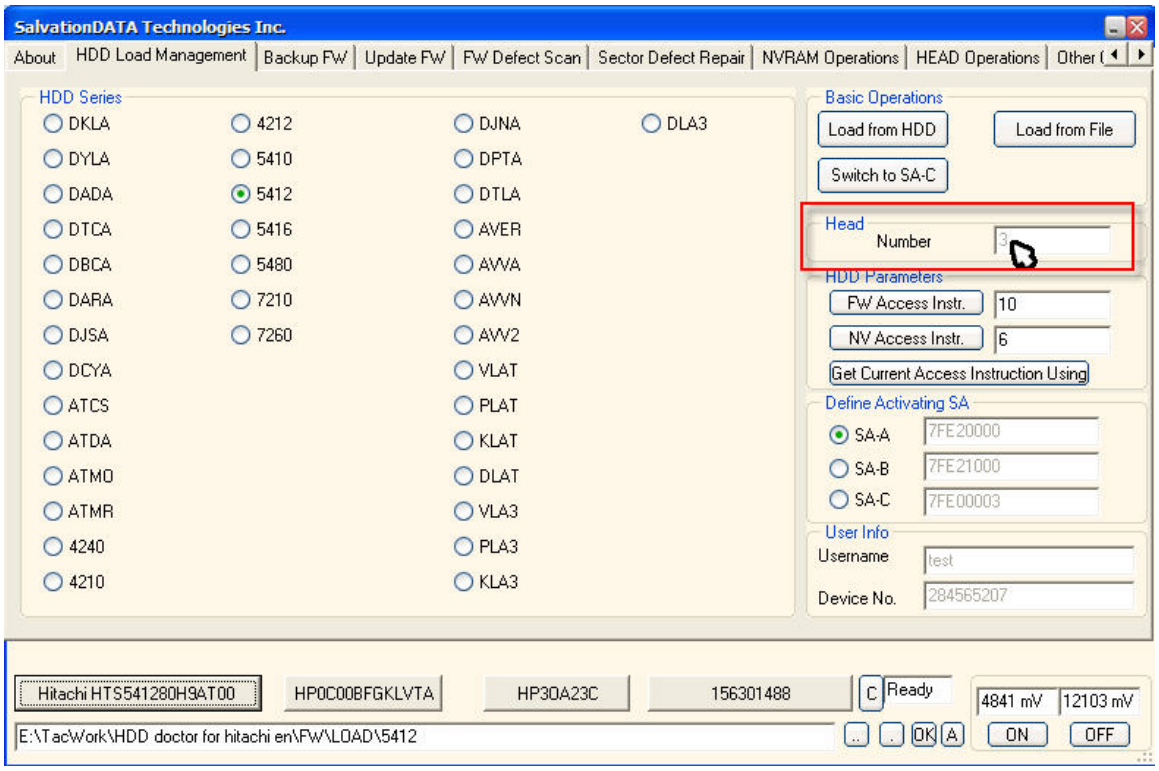


Figure 1

Now click “A” button at the lower tool bar to save all resources such as rom, nvram, modules and .res file into the auto created directory. This operation is highly recommended but not a must for depopping the head. (See Figure 2)

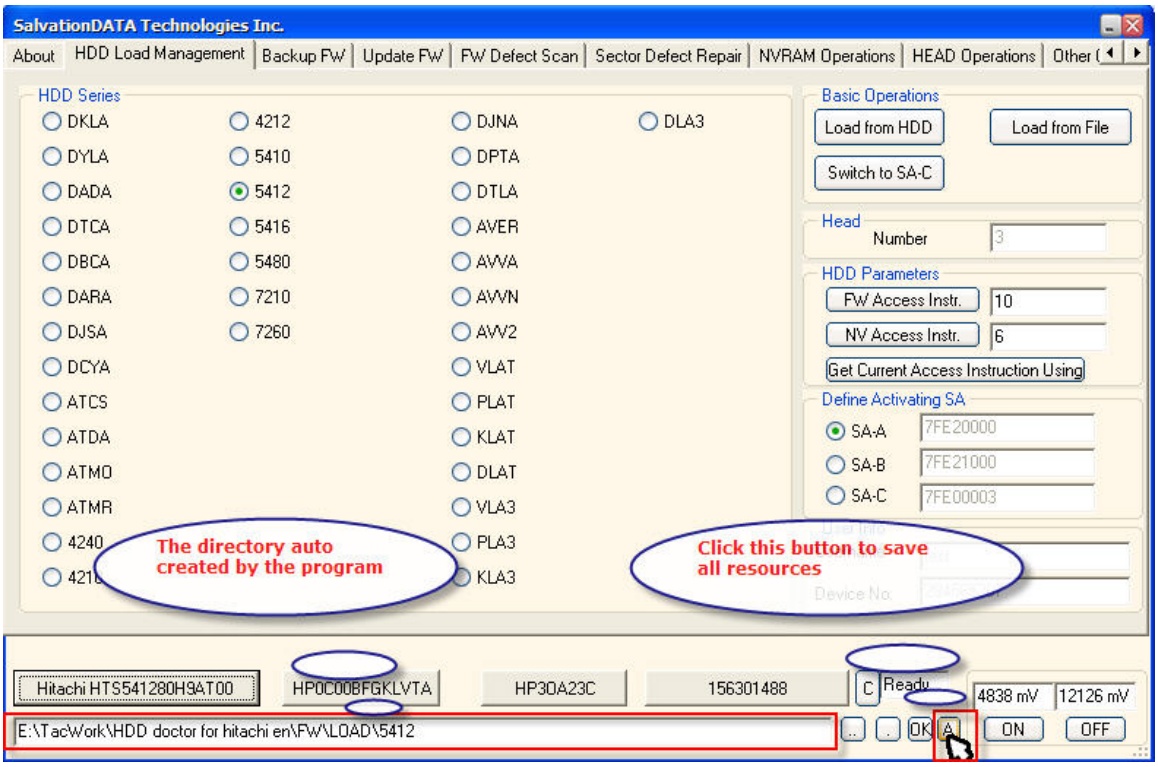


Figure 2

Now we are going to depop head (In our case, we have head No. 1,No.2, No.3 with our hdd. We will demonstrate how to depop head No.3 and keep the HEAD 1 and HEAD 2. Note: Depopping the first head (the primary HEAD) is NOT allowed in any case).

Go to “head operations” tab;

Click “view head distribution” (See Figure 3)

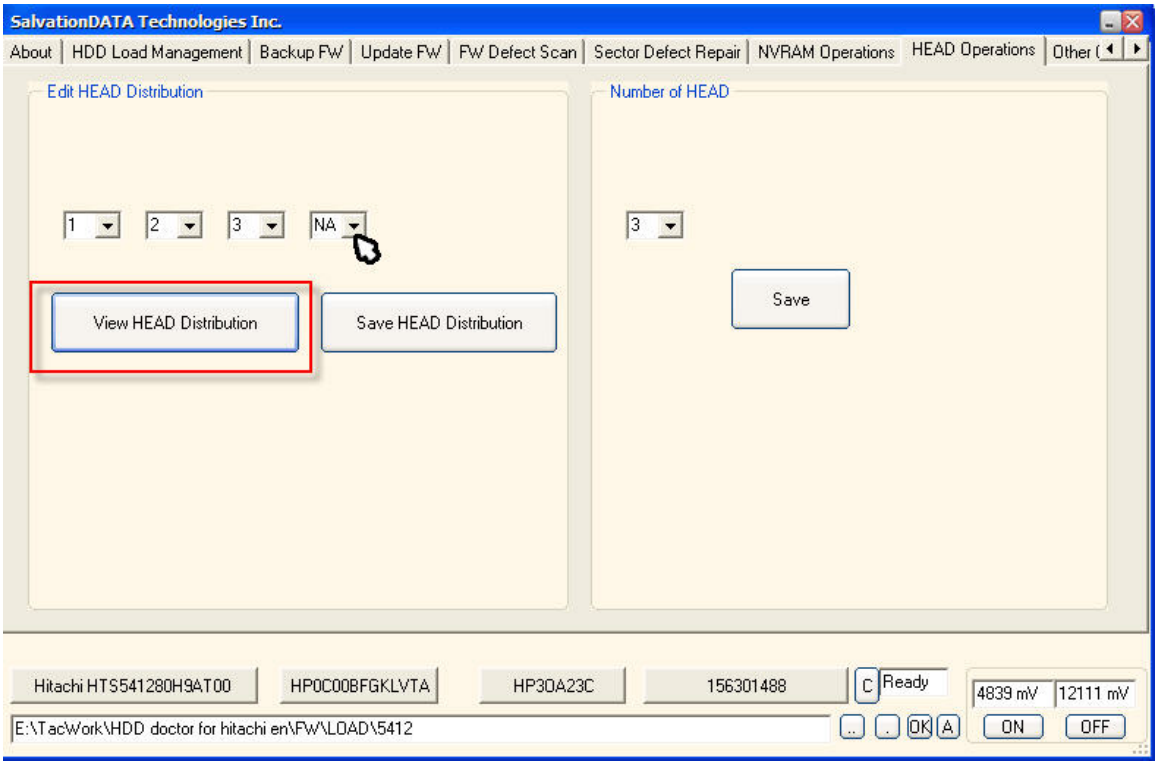


Figure 3

Select N/A in the head 3 dropdown menu at the left section, and then click “save head distribution”. It will prompt you “completed” when it’s finished. (See Figure 4)

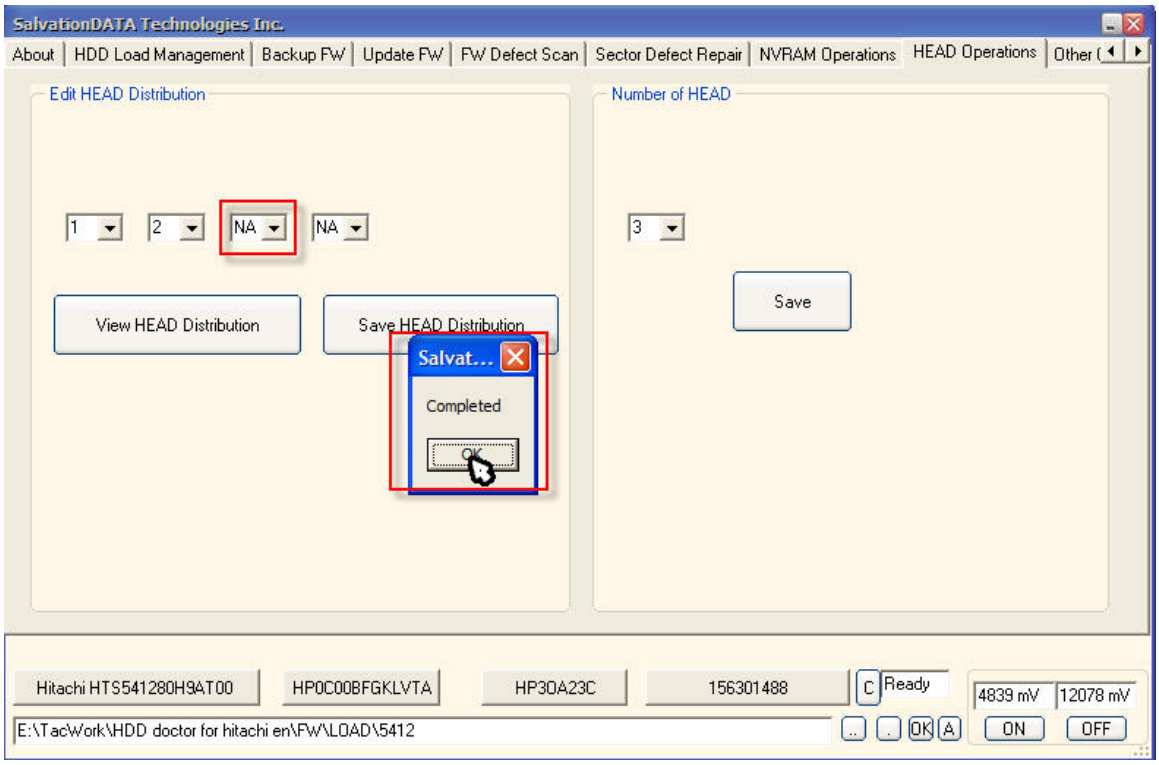


Figure 4

Now we set the number of heads to be reserved to 2 (because there are only two HEADs left, otherwise the drive will be clicking). Click “Save”, it also will prompt you “completed” when it’s done. (See Figure 5)

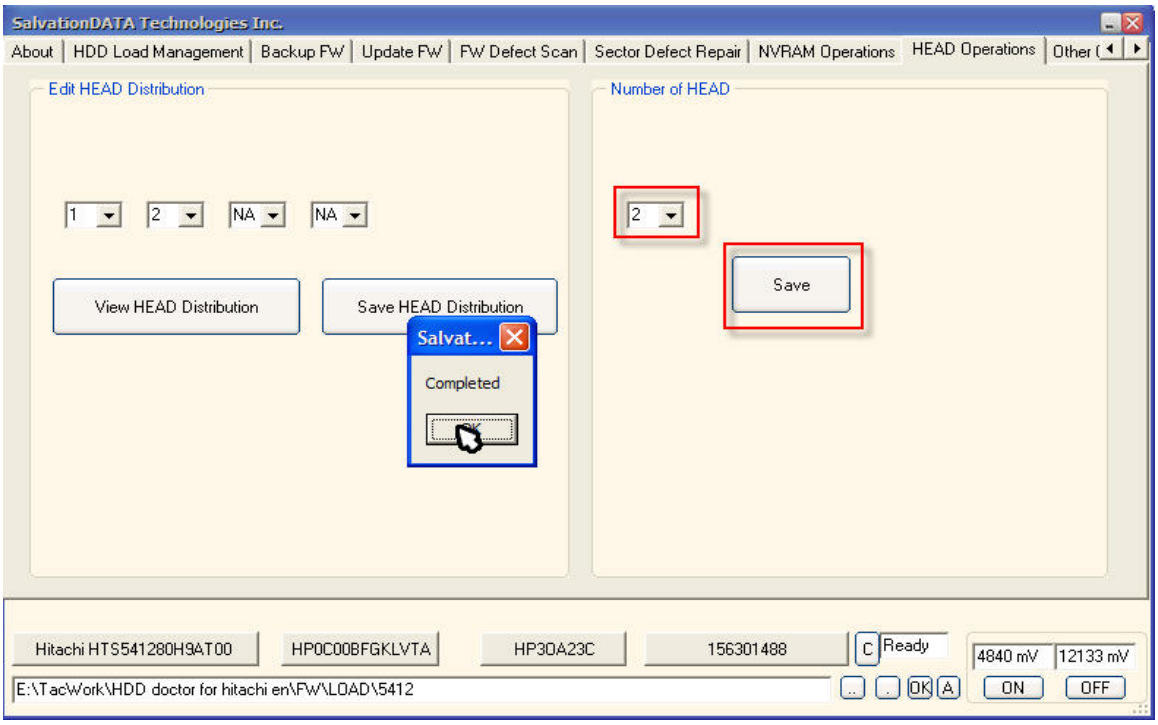
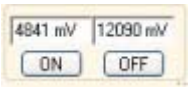


Figure 5

Click “off” then ”on” 

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Go to “hdd load management” tab to click “load from hdd”. Now we can see the number of heads becomes 2. (See Figure 6)

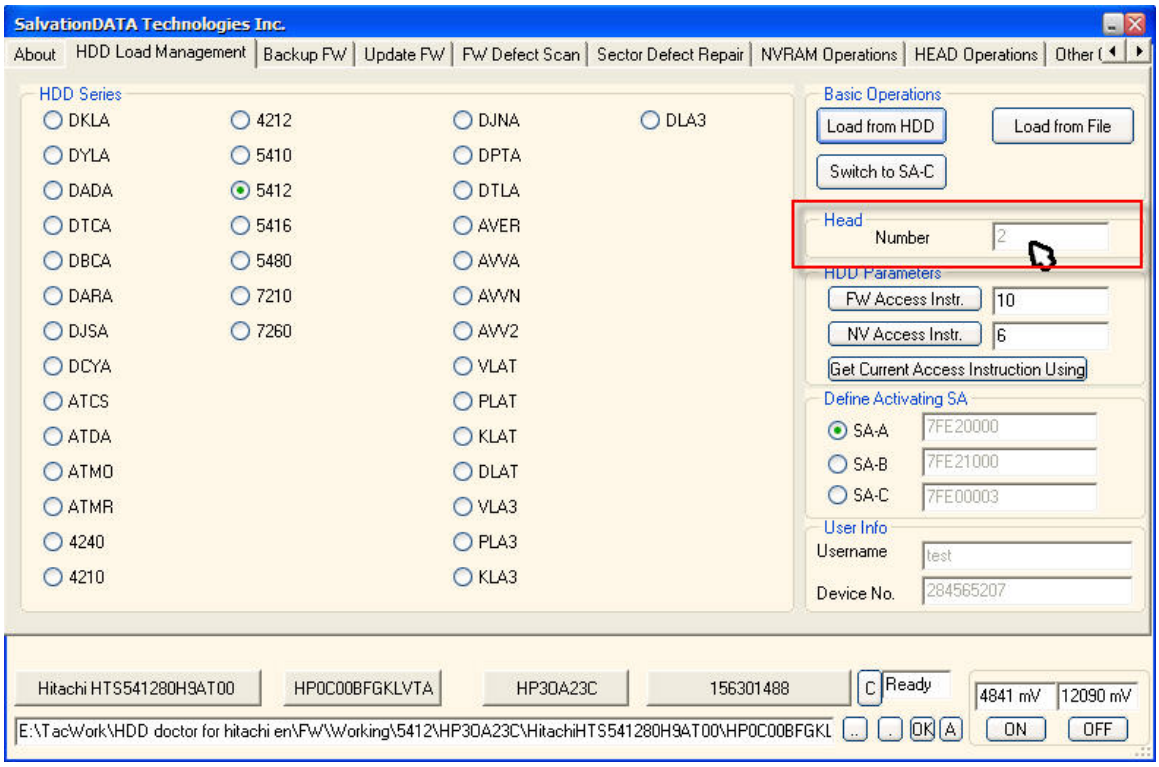

Figure 6

Go to “head operations” tab, click “view head distribution”, we can see that head 1 and head 2 are kept. (See Figure 7)

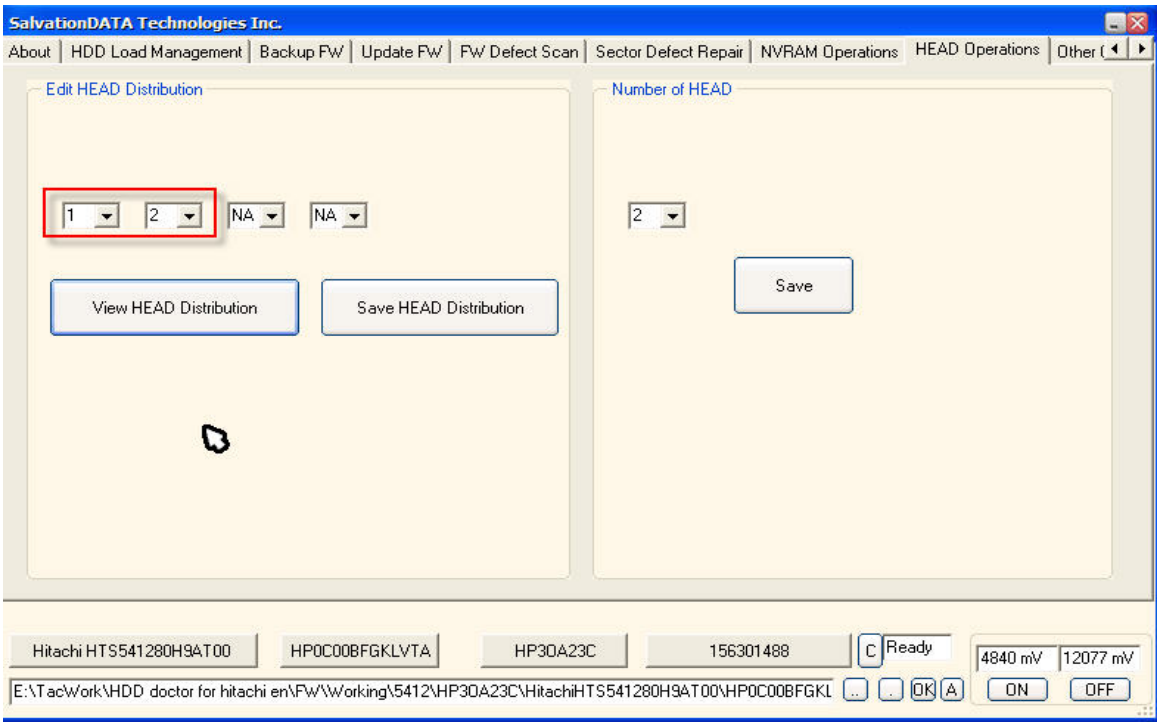

Figure 7

What if we depop HEAD 2 and keep HEAD 1 and HEAD 3? Just change the HEAD 2 value to be N/A? The answer is “absolutely not”.

The HEAD 3 kept shoud stick to the primary HEAD. See Figure 8. There should be NO N/A between two available HEADs. The HEAD 3 is working as the HEAD 2 in this case; the physical HEAD 2 has been depopped.

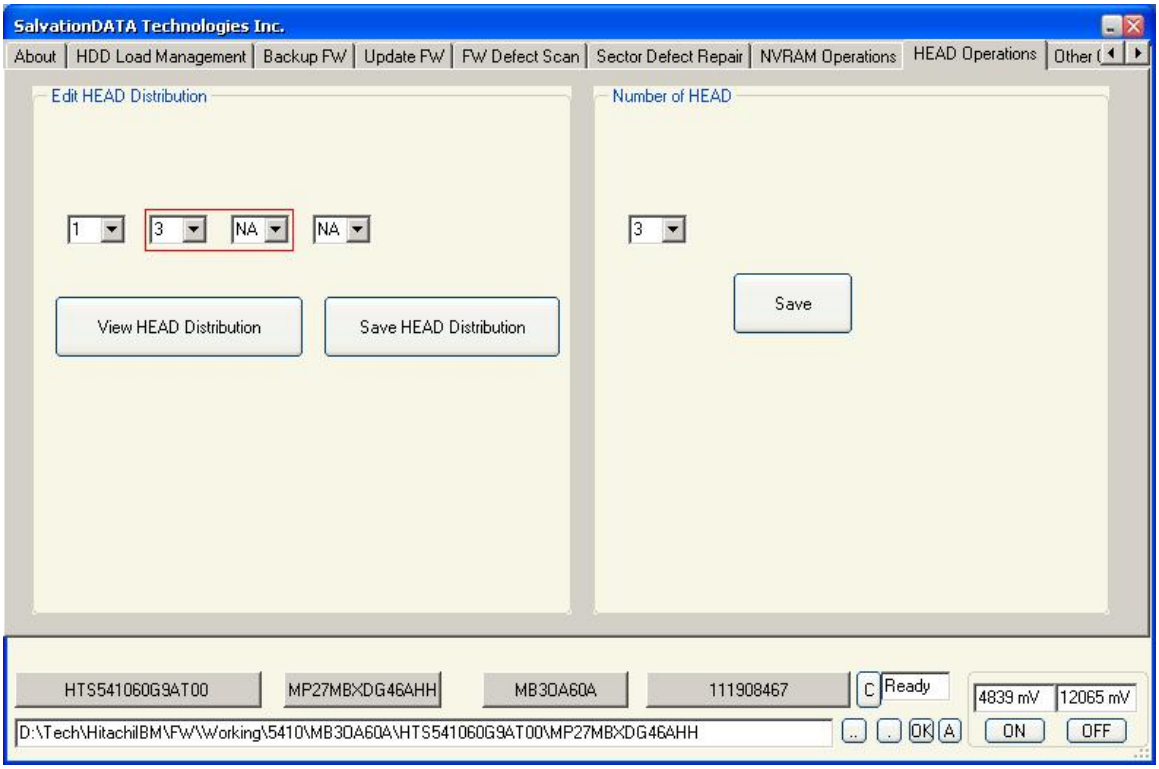

Figure 8

There are special steps needed in case you want to depop all other HEADs except the primary HEAD:

Now I am gonna demonstrate how to depop all other heads, keeping the the first head (We call it the primary head)

We can see that the current hard drive has 2 heads since we've already cut off its head No. 3.

Read this paragraph very carefully: Now we cut head No. 2 using the same method mentioned above. After power reset, we can see that some hdd parameters such as model number, sn, firmware version, etc can't be recognized if we click LOAD FROM HDD. It's normal because it indicates that we have successfully cut off head No.2 which was used to read SA-B when hdd is powered on, now head No.2 is gone, which indicates that the hdd would be switched to SA-C automatically because of the failed reading of SA-B. We can just switch SA-C back to SA-A by referring to "**switching the HDD working mode from SA-C (factory mode) to normal**" on page 24 of the user manual. This part tells you how to switch working mode from SA-C (factory mode) to SA-A (normal mode). **Next, we must upload a specific ZONE module back.** By specific, I mean, for example, if this hard drive is 60GB, which means it contains 20 GB per head, now there is only 20GB available for use since there is only one head reserved. We must find an identical 20GB donor hdd (just same series would be fine), save its zone module and upload it to this single-head drive.

Done.